

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SSO-00 FDRE-00 EA-06 OPR-02 A-01

H-02 SCA-01 AID-05 VO-03 SR-02 ORM-01 IGA-01 /039 W
----- 066864

R 081145Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2707

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 1463

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, VS, CE

SUBJ: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: STATE 97854; COLOMBO 1378

1. IN RESPONSE REQUESTS TO SEE ACTING PRIME
MINISTER, DCM WAS GIVEN APPOINTMENT INSTEAD
WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, LAKSHMAN JAYAKODY,
ON MAY 5 AND MADE PRESENTATION AS INSTRUCTED
STATE 97854.

2. AFTER SEEKING AND RECEIVING ASSURANCE THAT
VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WERE LEAVING VIET-NAM
VOLUNTARILY, JAYAKODY CHOSE TO STRESS HUMANI-
TARIAN ASPECTS OF PROBLEM. SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY,
HE MADE NO MENTION OF POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES SRI
LANKA WOULD HAVE IN ACCEPTING SOUTH VIETNAMESE FOR
RESETTLEMENT (ALTHOUGH HE DID ASK IN HIS NAIVE FASHION WHAT
VIET CONG THOUGHT OF REFUGEE QUESTION). JAYAKODY
POINTED GENERALLY TO HIS COUNTRY'S SERIOUS
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS BUT LEFT MATTER OPEN.

3. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER CONCLUDED BY SAYING
HE WISHED DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH ACTING PRIME
MINISTER MAITHRIPALA SENANAYAKE, WITH MINISTER OF
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOME
AFFAIRS FELIX DIAS BANDARANAIKE, AND WITH PRIME
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MINISTER BANDARANAIKEHOFTER HER RETURN FROM

ABROAD. HE WOULD THEN BE IN TOUCH WITH US
FURTHER.

4. COMMENT: JAYAKODY SEEMS TO BE RESPONDING
TO OUR REQUEST THAT, DESPITE OBVIOUS DIFFICULTIES,
GSL CONSIDER OUR APPROACH SERIOUSLY. BECAUSE OF
POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION HERE, HOWEVER,
WE CAN HOLD OUT LITTLE HOPE THAT GSL WILL IN FACT
AGREE TO HELP IN RESETTLEMENT EFFORT.

VAN HOLLEN

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NNN

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